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REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

# Programme budget implications of resolution 698 (XXV) entitled "Final Review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990", adopted by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa at its sixteenth meeting

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

1. At its sixteenth meeting, held at Tripoli in May 1990, the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) adopted resolution 698 (XXV), entitled "Final review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, which would have implications for the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. The resolution is before the Economic and Social Council for action (see E/1990/84, sect.I). The present statement contains the programme budget implications of the resolution.

## A. Description of activities proposed in the draft resolution and their relationship to current legislative mandates

2. By operative paragraph 3 of the resolution, the Council would invite the Executive Secretary of the Commission to mount special multisectoral missions to all member States of the Commission early in the fourth quarter of 1990 to

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collect up-to-date information on the implementation of the Programme of Action on the basis of which the special memorandum will be prepared.

3. By operative paragraph 4 of the resolution, the Council would request the General Assembly to make available to the secretariat of the Commission the financial resources that are required to mount such special missions on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action.

4. The activities called for in the resolution would fall under chapter 10 (Development issues and policies) of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989 (extended to 1991), as revised. 1/ They are not covered in the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and would thus represent new activities under section 13 (Economic Commission for Africa).

B. Estimated requirements at full cost and modification required in the approved programme of work for 1990-1991

5. It is estimated that implementation of operative paragraph 3 of the resolution would require the dispatching of 10 missions from the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa, composed of three staff members for each mission. Each mission would visit five countries of the region, spending seven days in each country. The estimated cost of these multisectoral missions would amount to $US 240,000. It is also estimated that, for practical reasons, the mission could not be dispatched before early in 1991. It is further estimated that the above requirements cannot be met in full or in part from within the resources already programmed under section 13 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

6. Should the Economic and Social Council adopt the resolution, the approval programme of work for the biennium 1990-1991 of the Economic Commission for Africa (sect.13 of the programme budget for that biennium) would require the following modification:

Programme 3. Development issues and policies in Africa

Subprogramme 1. Socio-economic analysis, planning and projections

Programme element 1.2 Survey of economic and social conditions in Africa

Additional outputs:

(iv) Multisectoral missions to all members States of the Commission to collect up-to-date information on the implementation of the Programme of Action (first quarter, 1991);

(v) Substantive services to the Conference of Ministers of the Commission in preparation of a special memorandum on the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action (first half of 1991).

C. Proposals for accommodating the additional 1990-1991 requirements

7. Paragraphs 3 and 4 of rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council provide that:

(a) Before a proposal involving the expenditure of United Nations funds is approved by the Council, the Secretary-General shall prepare and provide to the Council an estimate of the programme budget implications of implementing the proposal;

(b) The President of the Council shall draw attention to that estimate and invite discussion on it when the proposal is considered by the Council;

(c) In accordance with the proposal approved by the Council, the Secretary-General shall make appropriate recommendations in the biennial programme budget and medium-term plan he subsequently presents to the General Assembly;

(d) In cases of exceptional urgency, the Council may request the Secretary-General to implement a new programme decision, as a matter of priority, during the current biennium;

(e) Such a new programme shall be implemented either within the current programme budget or by additional appropriations to be approved by the General Assembly in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

8. The resolution under consideration requires activities that would have to be undertaken in the current biennium. Should the Council endorse the resolution, the Secretary-General would request the Council to confirm that the resolution constitutes a case of exceptional urgency and that the request contained therein must be implemented in the current biennium.

9. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and in effect starting with the biennium 1990-1991, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, those activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of approved activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of its forty-fifth session.

10. In accordance with the procedure outlined in paragraph 9 above, activities programmed under section 13 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, except those of high priority, will be modified in order to release funds currently allocated for related operational costs and to offset the additional requirements ($US 240,000) in the event that the balance available in the contingency fund would not be sufficient to accommodate the new activities called for in operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of the resolution under consideration.

11. Should the Economic and Social Council adopt the resolution entitled "Final review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990" and should the Council decide that the resolution constitutes a case of exceptional urgency and that the request contained therein must be implemented in the current biennium, the

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Secretary-General would seek from the General Assembly, in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and subject to the criteria governing the operation and use of the contingency fund as spelt out in paragraph 9 above, additional appropriations amounting to $US 240,000.

Note

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No.6 (A/37/6); ibid., Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No.6 (A/39/6 and Corr.1); ibid.,Supplement No.38 (A/39/38); ibid., Forty-first Session, Supplement No.6 (A/41/6); ibid., Supplement No.38 (A/41/38).

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